

CONFIDENTIAL

76-2669/A
V-1

July 8, 1976

Dear George,

Thanks very much for the most interesting preliminary report on the debriefing of your North Vietnamese source concerning LINEBACKER II.

I will look forward to receiving the final wrap-up report, which promises to cast some light on a wide range of obscure subjects.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

George Bush

25X1A

Major General George J. Keegan, Jr., USAF
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

O/DCI/dkg/kgt/8 July 1976

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
1 - ER
1 - DCI
1 - DDO
1 - DDI
1 - D/DCI/NI

(EXECUTIVE SECRET FILE
(
V-1

USAF review(s) completed.

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by 435013
Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption schedule 5B (1), (2), (3)
Date Impossible to Determine

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET
Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X	7/6/74	
2	DDCI				
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	S/MC				
5	DDS&T				
6	DDI		X		
7	DDA				
8	DDO		X		
9	D/DCI/NIO		X		
10	GC				
11	LC				
12	IG				
13	Compt				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/S				
16	DTR				
17	Asst/DCI				
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPS				
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE					
Date					

25X1

25X1

25X1C

25X1C

Remarks:

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

CONFIDENTIAL

Executive Registry

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

IN

22 JUN 1976

SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Comments on LINEBACKER II (U)

TO: The Honorable George Bush
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20505

1. (C) On 8 March 1976, Lt HO KIM HAI, a former Vietnamese Air Force helicopter pilot, escaped from Vietnam to Thailand in his UH-1 helicopter. Accompanying him in the successful escape were his wife, four children, and his flight mechanic, Sgt NGUYEN VAN THANG.

2. (C) With the concurrence of the Thai Government, Detachment 5, 7602d Air Intelligence Group, subsequently initiated an intensive effort to debrief Lt HAI and Sgt THANG. In May, when the HAI family and Sgt THANG were granted status as US immigrants, the 7602d continued the debriefing effort in San Francisco, where the refugees had joined their new sponsor.

3. (C) These debriefings have proved to be particularly fruitful, providing a great deal of information on conditions in Vietnam since the collapse of the country, reprisals against former South Vietnamese officials, North Vietnamese treatment of repatriates, and North Vietnamese use of former South Vietnamese Air Force aircraft and pilots.

4. (U) Attached are the highlights of one report based on this debriefing effort which I believe should be of particular interest to you and to the other members of the National Foreign Intelligence Board. After completion of this debriefing effort, I will also forward a wrap-up of the significant information obtained.

1 Atch
North Vietnamese Comments
on LINEBACKER II (C)

George J. Keegan Jr.
GEORGE J. KEEGAN JR.
Major General, USAF
Asst Chief of Staff, Intelligence

Cy to: Deputy/DCI/IC [REDACTED] P25X1
CIA (Mr. H. Knoche)
State/INR/OD (Mr. Saunders)
Director, DIA (Lt Gen Wilson)
ACS/I, US Army (Maj Gen Aaron)
DIRNAVINTEL (RADM Inman)
DIRNSA (Lt Gen Allen)

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: ACS/I, HQ USAF
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
DECLASSIFICATION CATEGORY 2
DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 2006

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA RDP79M00467A002500170008-9
Underwrite Your Country's Might - Buy U.S. Savings Bonds

CONFIDENTIAL

NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMENTS ON LINEBACKER II (U)

a. (C) During political orientation classes held at Binh Thuy for former Vietnamese Air Force personnel now working for the Communists, Lt HO KIM HAI learned some of the effects of the B-52 raids mounted by the United States in late December 1972. On more than one occasion one of the political officers stated that, had the raids continued for one more week, a general retreat and cessation of hostilities would have been forced. He emphasized that the degree of destruction of the air defenses and industrial base was too extensive to permit prolonged resistance. *IN DEP*

b. (C) In early September 1975, on the occasion of North Vietnam's Independence Day, MajGen HOANG KHAM of the North Vietnamese Ministry of Defense arrived at Binh Thuy AB by MI-8 helicopter with a large personal party. Upon his arrival, KHAM prefaced his remarks to former Vietnamese Air Force officers on the scene by telling them that "now that there is no more war, you're no longer our enemies, and there's nothing to hide of the bombing." KHAM said, "the American bastards left only Gia Lam untouched. The other bases didn't even resemble airfields."

c. (C) Later in the day, when the North Vietnamese discovered that they had no tennis players of their own to entertain General KHAM, they recruited Lt HAI to play with him. Between sets of tennis, the general amplified his earlier remarks, emphasizing the seriousness of the North Vietnamese position during the bombing raids. He stated that one more week of bombing would have been intolerable. KHAM said that, prior to the signing of the Paris Accords, the USSR and PRC had pressed North Vietnam to remove the 300,000 North Vietnamese Army troops from South Vietnam and return to protracted guerrilla warfare. While the bombing raids continued, the Soviet and Chinese Governments had pressed the Vietnamese to sue for peace; only the Cubans supported the Vietnamese decision to gamble that the United States would not continue the strikes to the point of confrontation with the USSR and the PRC. The North Vietnamese viewed the US signing of the Paris Accords as a great victory and proof that they would be victorious over South Vietnam.

d. (C) KHAM stated that the US bombing had destroyed all North Vietnamese industrial assets and forced much of their war machinery to be relocated in the mountains. General KHAM also mentioned that the sea lines of communication had been effectively cut and that the Chinese rail link was proving less and less effective, with the Chinese frequently stealing many of the items sent by the USSR. Also, he stated, at one time a US invasion of the North was feared as a real possibility.

Classified by: *ACELL, HQ USAE*
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY *2*

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9
7-020 AMTEG/INOA
Ft Belvoir, Va. 22060

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

THE HONORABLE GEORGE BUSH
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
Approved For Release 2013/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2013/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9
CONFIDENTIAL

	UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET
--	--------------	--	--------------	--	--------

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	S/MC				
5	DDS&T				
6	DDI		X		
7	DDA				
8	DDO		X		
9	D/DCI/NIC		X		
10	GC				
11	LC				
12	IG				
13	Compt				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/S				
16	DTR				
17	Asst/DCI				
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPS				
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE					
Date					

Remarks:

25X1C

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9
8 July 1976

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

E B :
Per SA DCI
DCI need not see.

pt
OES

Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

CONFIDENTIAL
Executive Registry

Approved For Release 2003/10/01: CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF INTELLIGENCE

DATE: 1 JUL 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI (Mr. Bush)
Deputy/DCI/IC (ADM Murphy)
State/INR/OD (Mr. Saunders)
→ CIA (Mr. H. Knoche)
Director, DIA (LtGen Wilson)
ACS/I, USA (Maj Gen Aaron)
DIRNAVINTEL (RADM Inman)
DIRNSA (Lt Gen Allen)

Pursuant to another report from the same sources forwarded to you on 22 June, Major General Keegan has requested that the attached also be forwarded for your information.

Jack Morris 3 Atch
JACK MORRIS, Colonel, USAF. 1. Sabotage & Resistance
Executive to ACS/Intelligence 2. Pro-Dissident Sym-
pathies (C), 1 cy
3. N Vietnamese Treatment
(C), 1 cy

When Atch(s) 3 (are) withdrawn or
not attached, the classification
of CONFIDENTIAL
on this correspondence may be
changed to UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
Approved For Release 2003/10/01: CIA-RDP79M00467A002500170008-9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved For Release 2001/09/06 : CIA-RDP79M0467A002500170008-9

SUBJECT: Sabotage and Resistance in Vietnam Since the Fall (C)

BACKGROUND: (C) During the debriefings of Lt HO KIM HAI, the former VNAF helicopter pilot who escaped to Thailand, and his mechanic, Sgt NGUYEN VAN THANG, evidence emerged of continued resistance and sabotage, as well as information on the steps the North Vietnamese have taken to quell it. Highlights of this reporting follow.

DISCUSSION: (C)

a. In July or August 1976, while Sgt THANG was at home in CAN THO on liberty, the city was shaken by tremendous explosions from the ammunition dump located about midway between CAN THO and BINH THUY. The explosions continued for over two hours, and the populace believed the area was being attacked by aircraft. As a result, a tight curfew was imposed on CAN THO and the people were forbidden to move around the city for five days, while an investigation was conducted. The number of casualties resulting from the blast was unknown, but was the subject of much speculation. It was generally agreed that the explosions were the result of sabotage by resistance forces.

b. On another occasion, in November, while Sgt THANG was deployed to the CAM LY airstrip at DA LAT, the ammunition dump there was blown up by resistance forces. Rockets, small arms ammo, and bombs exploded continuously from 1400 hours until approximately 1800 hours, while fires continued to burn until the following morning. No casualties were reported. THANG said the NVA later claimed to have captured three Montagnards, including a boy about 15 years old. The boy was said to have been caught with lengths of primer cord in his possession.

c. Beginning in July and continuing for the next six months, the NVA flew daily strikes against the resistance groups, using CAM LY airstrip as a base of operations. The gunships were flown by former VNAF crews, but the gunners were NVA troops and the strikes were controlled by an NVA officer who flew as a passenger in a U-17. After the first week of operations, UH-1 slicks airlifted troops into the DAMRONG area northwest of DA LAT in TUYEN DUC Province. THANG stated that the combination of air strikes and troop insertions was successful in relieving the pressure on DA LAT.

d. During this same period, UH-1 gunships and slicks flew similar operations against FULRO forces (acronym for "Front Unifie pour la Liberation des Races Opprimees") operating in DARLAC Province, west-northwest of BAN ME THUOT along the Cambodian border. Other heliborne operations were conducted during Sep - Oct 75 around TANH LINH in BINH THUAN Province. THANG states that operations against resistance forces in the DA LAT area were still being conducted sporadically at the time of his escape in March 1976.

Classified by: AC5/1, HQ USAF
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 2
DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 2006

Approved For Release 2001/09/06 : CIA-RDP79M0467A002500170008-9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: Pro-Dissident Sympathies Among Former VNAF Personnel (U)

BACKGROUND: (C) During their recent debriefing in San Francisco, Lt HO KIM HAI and his mechanic, Sgt NGUYEN VAN THANG, provided information concerning the attitudes of former VNAF members toward the communists and the possibilities of further escape attempts. Highlights of that reporting follow.

DISCUSSION: (C)

a. Although most former VNAF flying personnel, both officer and enlisted, were initially treated well by the NVAF, eventually most of them became disillusioned after months of hardship, broken promises, and irregular wages. Sources believe that, given the chance, most would be glad to escape. The main deterrent is the family. Many men pledged to their parents and wives that they would either escape together, as a family, or face their fate together.

b. Sources also believe that, if well led, the former VNAF mechanics could greatly hamper or even cripple air operations at former VNAF bases. Sgt THANG knows of many cases of sabotage committed by individual mechanics, much of it done in such a way that it would not be discovered for some time. For example, mechanics overtorque screws on both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft or deliberately fail to treat parts properly for corrosion control. In one well-known incident, a former VNAF flight mechanic and aircraft tractor driver deliberately crushed CH-47 rotor blades with his tractor. Arrested by North Vietnamese security for gross negligence, the mechanic received three months imprisonment.

c. The main deterrent to further sabotage efforts is the knowledge that, if successful, the sabotage could result in the serious injury or death of other former VNAF personnel on the aircraft. For that reason, and because of a constant watch by North Vietnamese security and planted informers, there has not thus far been a concerted effort to sabotage or destroy aircraft. However, Lt HAI believes that, if a well-led resistance movement should develop, the mechanics have the capacity to seriously undermine all air operations.

d. Lt HAI also states that all his friends planned to listen to the Voice of America in order to learn how he was received in the United States. If they hear that he was well-received, they believe the chances are good for further escapes. Lt HAI fully expects to see more escapes made from BINH THUY AB.

Classified by: ACS/L-HQ-VSAE
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
 DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11152
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 2
 DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 2006

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

21 June 1976

SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Treatment of Former VNAF Personnel (U)

BACKGROUND: (C) During the San Francisco debriefing of former VNAF Lt HO KIM HAI and his flight mechanic, Sgt NGUYEN VAN THANG, considerable information was obtained concerning the treatment accorded former VNAF pilots and mechanics by the NVAF. Highlights of this information follow:

DISCUSSION: (C)

- a. The treatment accorded former VNAF personnel by the North Vietnamese and the length of time they were held in reeducation camps varied, apparently depending in part on where capture took place. According to both Lt HAI and Sgt THANG, soldiers and airmen caught in the area north of PHAN THIET as far as DA NANG were categorized as POWs, while those captured south of PHAN THIET, in III and IV Corps, were termed "surrenderers."
- b. One cadre remarked to Lt HAI that he had been very lucky, because many POWs are still being held in the camps. HAI was held in a reeducation camp in CAN THO from May to August 1975, but he tells of one group of former 3rd Air Division officers who were not released from the LAI KHE Reeducation Camp until February 1976.
- c. HAI stated that the NVAF would have preferred to have all former VNAF pilots released from detention, but camp officials, citing the security risks inherent in such a move, demanded that the NVAF vouch for the pilots' reliability, and this the NVAF would not do.
- d. On one occasion, during a trip to CON SON Island in late 1975 or early 1976, Lt HAI overheard several high-ranking North Vietnamese officers mention that eleven former VNAF pilots were still being held on the island. The "air pirates" -- as they were called -- reportedly were caught there on 1 May 1975, as they were attempting to escape.

Classified by: DIAM-58-11
 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
 DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 2
 DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 2006

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~